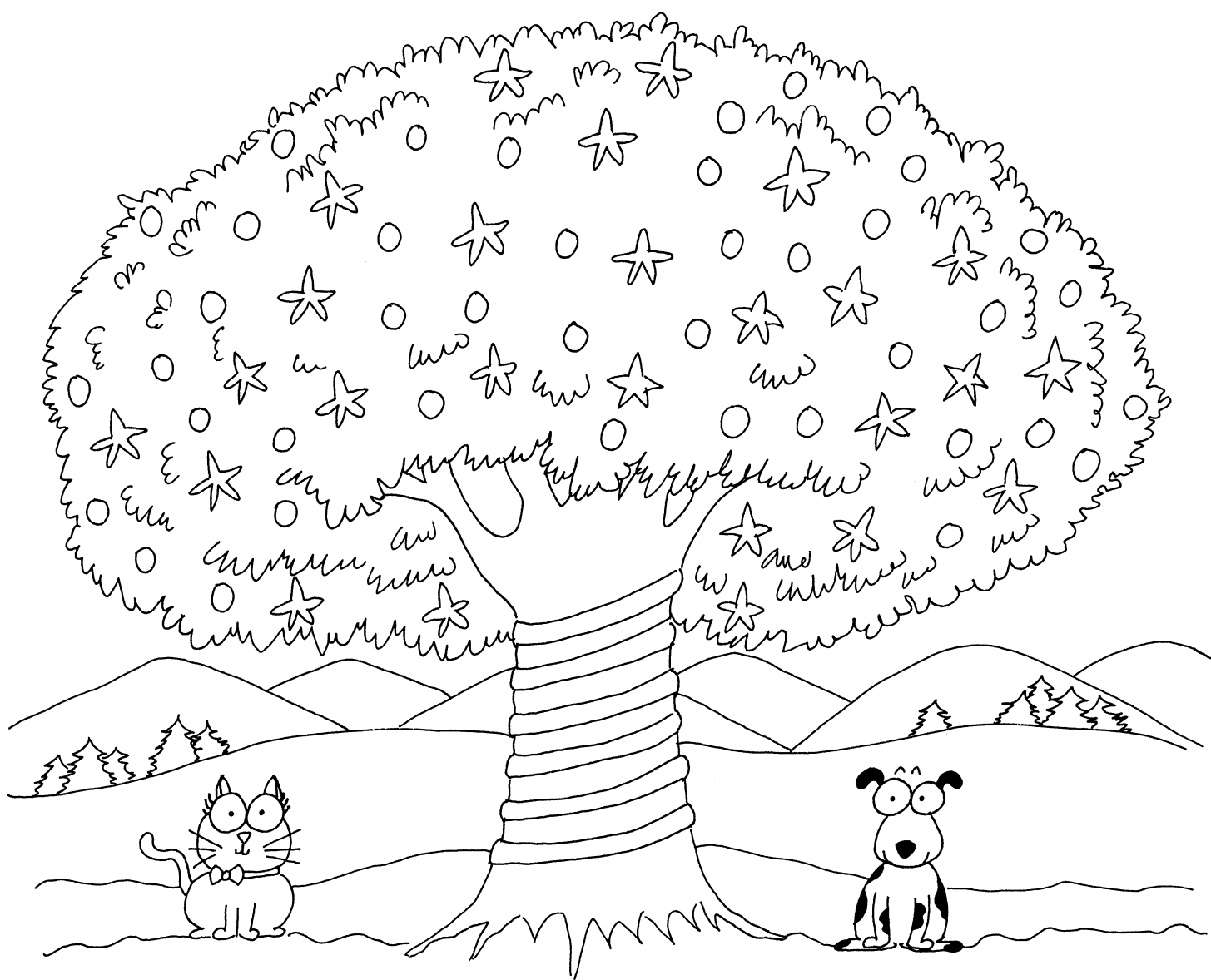


The Unity Tree

An Inspirational Fantasy For Young Voices

by Teresa Jennings



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CHARACTERS:

Kitten

Puppy

Lots of cats, any number (10 speaking)

Lots of dogs, any number (10 speaking)

To make the performance more personal, students could name their own characters. They could use their own pets' names, if they like. Here are some common ideas for names:

Cats - Fluffy, Tabby, Paws, Garfield, Whiskers, Fraidy, Princess, Calico, Snuggles, Lady, Tom

Dogs - Spot, Skipper, Ruffy, Rex, Barky, Rover, King, Woofie, Mickey, Wolf, Max, Prince

Throughout the dialog, cats and dogs could add touches of personality - barking, meowing, purring, sniffing, panting, etc. Also use unique voices for each character (optional).

SETTING: The area surrounding a prominent tree. The tree is approximately in the center, and has a large, vertical stripe down its middle. The tree separates Catville and Dogburg.

TIME: Past, present, or future

OPENING SONG: It's Snowing Cats And Dogs!

Most of the cats and dogs are gathered onstage during the opening song. All of the dogs are on one side of the tree and all of the cats are on the other side.

Kitten and Puppy enter the stage during the song. Other "new" cats and dogs may enter at this time as well. They are part of the result of the snowstorm.

It's Snowing Cats And Dogs!

PLAYFUL, BUT SOMEWHAT DISJOINTED (♩=120)

Teresa Jennings

4 (5) *f*

It's

(7) REPEAT ON D.S. ALSO *solo cat*

snow - ing, snow - ing cats and dogs!

It's snow - ing, snow - ing cats and

solo dog (1. (2.

dogs! It's They

(16) SMOOTHLY

look so peace - ful fly - ing from the sky, you al - most could not

It's Snowing Cats And Dogs!

guess that cats and dogs don't us - u - al - ly fly and they

23
don't get a-long the best. But you'll see in the sky, cats and

dogs seem to fly. To fly!

D.S. AL CODA
TO CODA

CODA
32
It's snow - ing,

solo cats
snow - ing cats and dogs! It's

solo dogs
snow - ing, snow - ing cats and dogs!

1. It's Cats and dogs!
2. *cat and dog, opt.*

After the song, the dogs talk amongst themselves. The cats freeze while they speak.

Dog 1: Woof! That sure was some snowstorm we had.

Dog 2: Sure was!

Dog 3: Did we get any more dogs?

Dog 4: I think I saw at least two terriers and a golden retriever.

Dog 5: I'm pretty sure there was a sheep dog and a Great Dane.

Dog 6: I saw a Chihuahua and two St. Bernards.

Dog 7: I saw a Doberman and maybe four or five dalmations.

Dog 8: I saw a mutt.

Dog 9: Excellent!

Dog 10: We need all the dogs we can get!

All dogs (ad lib): Sure do; You know it; Yup; etc. *They pant and bark freely.*

The dogs freeze while the action moves to the cat side of the tree.

Cat 1: Sooooo, how did we do in the last snowstorm?

Cat 2: We did purrrrfectly!

Cat 3: I'm sure we got at least two Siamese and a tabby.

Cat 4: I saw three calicos.

Cat 5: I saw a Tonkinese and two black cats.

Cat 6: I think there were a couple of alley cats.

Cat 7: Did you see the big orange one?

Cat 8: Yup. Thought I saw a stray, too.

Cat 9: Where are they?

Cat 10: They're over by the tree. *(point to tree)*

Cats freeze. One of the new kittens strays from the others. She wanders to the dog side of the tree. A new puppy is on the other side. They walk toward each other.

Kitten: *(purrr)* Hello.

Puppy: *(sniffs)* Hi.

Kitten: I'm new here.

Puppy: Me, too.

Kitten: Looks like a nice place.

Puppy: Yeah. Looks like lots of fun.

Kitten: Do you want to play together?

Puppy: Sure!

Kitten and Puppy find a large ball (that just happens to be there) and begin to throw it back and forth as they sing.

SONG: Let's Play

After the song, some dogs notice the two playing.

Dog 1: *(barks loudly)* Hey! What are you doing?

Puppy: We're playing.

Kitten: *(to dogs)* Hi!

Dog 2: Don't "hi" me, you cat you!

Kitten: But...

One of the dogs grabs the ball away angrily.

Dog 3: Get away from our puppy!

The cats have noticed the commotion from the other side of the tree.

Cat 1: Kitten! Get out of there!

Cat 2: It's not safe!

Kitten: But why?

Cat 3: Don't argue! Just move it!

Dog 4: Yeah. Move it, cat! *(barks and chases Kitten)*

Cat 4: *(to other cats)* Who let that dog out?

Kitten runs to other side of tree. Cats surround her for safety.

Dog 5: And stay out! *(waves fist)*

Dog 6: Ha! What a fraidy cat!

Cat 5: *(to Kitten)* Ahhh, don't pay any attention to him.

Cat 6: Yeah. His bark's worse than his bite.

Cat 7: But see that tree? *(Kitten nods)* Just be sure you stay on this side of it.

Cat 8: You'll be safe over here.

Cats freeze.

Dog 5: *(to Puppy)* Now, just what do you think you were doing?

Puppy: Playing.

Dog 6: With a cat? Are you crazy?

Dog 7: We don't "play" with cats.

Dog 8: Yeah. She's from the wrong side of the tree.

Dog 9: Cats are our enemies. We chase them and scare them.

Dog 10: No bones about it. We just don't play with cats.

Puppy: Why not?

Dog 1: What do you mean, “why not”? That’s just how it is.

Dog 2: It’s what we were taught when we were puppies.

Dog 3: Yeah, if you play with cats, you’ll be in the dog house.

Puppy: I don’t understand.

Dog 4: There’s nothing to understand. We just hate each other.

Dog 5: We’re supposed to fight like cats and dogs.

Dog 6: If you want to be a top dog, you can’t be soft on cats.

Dog 7: That’s just the way that it is.

Dog 8: Everybody knows that. Even the cats.

Puppy: But why?

Dogs freeze.

Cat 9: (to Kitten) Because it’s always been that way.

Kitten: I don’t understand.

Cat 10: Look, kid. It’s a dog-eat-cat world. I’d rather have fleas.

Cat 1: You’re too young to understand.

Cat 2: Just take our word for it.

Cat 3: It’s our job to teach you the way things are.

Kitten: But that puppy was nice.

Cat 4: Oh sure. And the next thing you know, he’s chasing you up a tree.

Cat 5: Don’t be a wild cat! Stay on this side of the tree.

Cat 6: Or else you might wind up in a doggie bag.

Cat 7: All dogs are no good! Stay away from them!

Cat 8: That’s just the way that it is!

All cats: Yeah!

SONG: Just The Way That It Is

During the later part of the song, Kitten and Puppy sneak off together and begin to play with the ball again. None of the cats and dogs notice them. (Kitten and Puppy exaggerate their “sneaking” actions, tiptoeing and hushing each other. They can also hold hands till they start to play. It’s okay to drop the ball and chase it. They should be smiling, even giggling, and looking like they’re having fun.)

Just The Way That It Is

UNFOUNDED PREJUDICIAL ROCK (♩=126)

Teresa Jennings

DRUMS
SET-UP

9 REPEAT ON D.S. ALSO
f CATS

All cats are no good. Na na na na no good.

13 REPEAT ON D.S. ALSO

No. No good. That's just the way that it is.

17 REPEAT ON D.S. ALSO
NASTY - AT DOGS

woof! Woof woof woof woof woof! Woof woof woof woof

TO CODA
(AFTER REPEAT ON D.S.)

After the song, the dogs turn to confirm their perspective with Puppy.

Dog 9: Well, I hope that teaches Puppy the facts of life!

Dog 10: Right! Now do you understand, Puppy? (*looks around*) Puppy?

Dog 1: Puppy? Where are you? Puuuuppppy!

All the dogs look around.

Dog 2: Puppy! Puppy! Here, boy! (*whistles*)

All other dogs (ad lib): Here, Puppy!; Come on, boy!; Here, boy!; etc. (*Whistling okay, too.*)

Fade out (decrescendo) dog ad libs. They continue to look around.

Cat 9: I'm sure Kitten will understand now.

Cat 10: I certainly hope so. Do you, Kitten? (*looks around*) Kitten?

Cat 1: Kitten? Where are you? Kiiitten?

All the cats look around.

Cat 2: Kitten! Here, Kitty Kitty Kitty! (*makes kissing sounds*)

All other cats (ad lib): Kitty, Kitty!; Here, Kitten!; Come on, baby!; etc. (*Kissing sounds okay, too.*)

Fade out (decrescendo) cat ad libs. They continue to look around.

Dog 3: Ohhhh noooo! He's not here!

Dog 4: He's been... dognapped!!

All dogs gasp.

Cat 3: Ohhhhh nooooo! She's not here!

Cat 4: She's been... catnapped!!

All cats gasp.

Cat 5: (*pointing at dogs*) It's those dogs!

Dog 5: (*pointing at cats*) It's those cats!

All dogs and cats make commotion – barking, meowing, hissing, growling. A few comments can be heard over the noise.

Cat 6: Give us back our cat!

Dog 6: We don't have your cat!

Cat 7: We're warning you! You'll be sorry!

Dog 7: You're the ones who will be sorry!

Dog 8: Yeah! Give us back our dog!

Cat 8: We don't have your dog!

Dog 9 and Cat 9 go back and forth: (*in each other's faces*) Oh yeah? Yeah! Oh yeah? Yeah!
Oh yeah?? Yeah!!

SONG: You'll Be Sorry

You'll Be Sorry

ANTAGONISTIC HIP HOP (♩ = B4) (♩ = $\overset{3}{\text{♩}}$)

Teresa Jennings

CATS HISS FREELY AT DOGS 3 *f* YELL

CATS

DRUMS SET-UP

DOGS

Cat - nap - pers!

5 *f* 3 9 2

CATS

DOGS GROWL FREELY AT CATS 3 *f* YELL 2

DOGS

Dog - nap - pers!

11

CATS

Give us back our kit - ty cat. You can't get a - way with that. }
 We know that you took our cat. You can't get a - way with that. }

DOGS

You'll Be Sorry

15

CATS

DOGS

Give us back our pup - py dog. You must think we're in a fog. }
 We know that you took our dog. You must think we're in a fog. }

19

CATS

DOGS

Kit - ty cat. Kit - ty cat. Give us back our kit - ty cat.

23

27

2

CATS

DOGS

Pup - py dog. Pup - py dog. Give us back our pup - py dog.

29

SING

CATS+ DOGS

You'll be sor - ry. Sor - ry, sor - ry, sor - ry.

33

TO CODA

CATS+ DOGS

You'll be sor - ry. Sor - ry, sor - ry, sor - ry.

You'll Be Sorry

37 (CATS HISS FREELY) **2** YELL **D.S. AL CODA**

CATS
Sor - ry! Cat - nap - pers!

DOGS
Sor - ry!

CODA

CATS+ DOGS
You'll be sor - ry. Sor - ry, sor - ry,

45

CATS+ DOGS
sor - ry. You'll be sor - ry.

49

CATS+ DOGS
Sor - ry, sor - ry, sor - ry. Sor - ry!

2 YELL make fists at each other

CATS+ DOGS
Sor - ry!

After the song, Kitten and Puppy see the two angry groups and run to the center in front of the tree. The cats and dogs are poised to fight, with paws (fists) in the air.

Puppy: Wait! Don't fight! We're right here!

Kitten: We're okay!

Cat 10: *(runs to Kitten)* Kitten! Did they hurt you? *(turns Kitten around, examining her)*

Kitten: No! Of course not!

Dog 10: *(grabs Puppy by the shoulders)* Are you all right, boy?

Puppy: I'm fine!

Dog 10: Good dog. *(pats him on the head)*

Puppy: We just wanted to play together.

Kitten: Nobody hurt anybody.

Cat 1: Why would you want to play with a dog?

Kitten: Because. We're friends.

Dog 1: Friends? A dog and a cat? Friends?

Cat 2: That's not possible.

Puppy: Why not?

Dog 2: It just isn't.

Kitten: But, we are friends. *(takes Puppy's paw)* See?

All dogs and cats gasp slightly. (On cue.) They shake their heads, scratch them, shrug their shoulders, and look confused.

Puppy: It is possible. And you can do it, too.

Cat 3: We can?

Dog 3: But we're supposed to be enemies.

Kitten: I don't want to be your enemy.

Puppy: I'd rather be your friend.

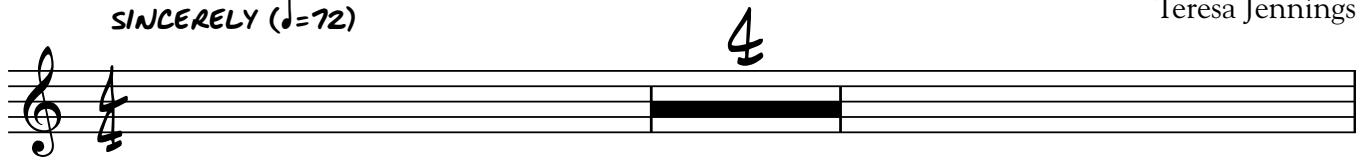
SONG: I'd Rather Be Your Friend

Kitten sings to dogs, then Puppy sings to cats. Then all cats and dogs join in.

I'd Rather Be Your Friend

SINCERELY (♩=72)

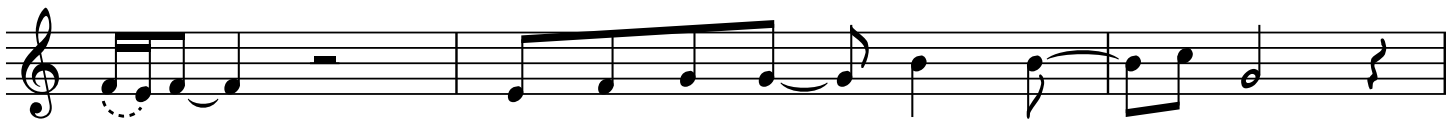
Teresa Jennings



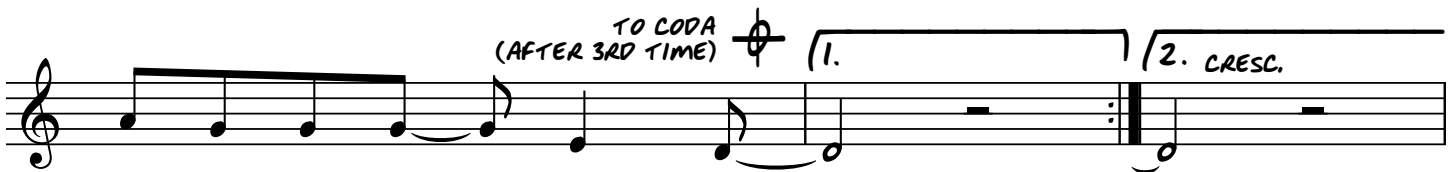
1ST TIME - SOLOS
2ND + 3RD TIMES - ALL
(NO REPEAT ON D.S.)



1. I'd rath-er be___	your friend._____	Don't want to be___	your
2. I'd rath-er not___	be mad._____	Don't want to feel___	so
3. I'd rath-er be___	your friend._____	Don't want to be___	your



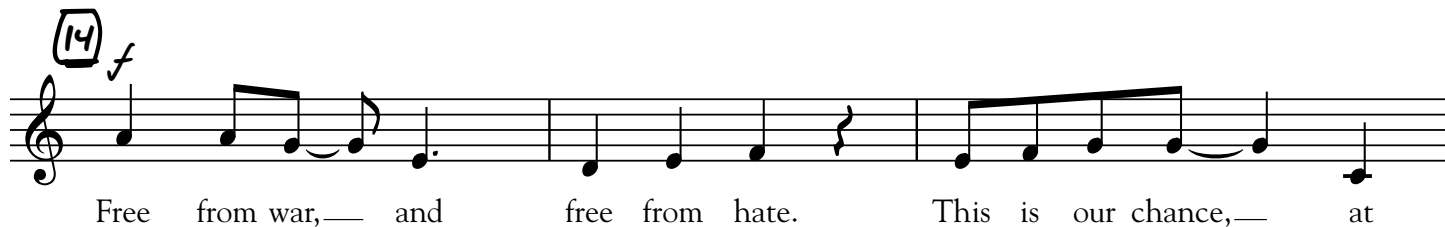
en-e-my.---	I'd rath - er be___	at peace___	with you,
an - gry.---	Would - n't you rath - er	get___	a - long?
en-e-my.---	We could ac - cept___	our	diff - 'ren - ces,



liv - ing	in	har -	mo -	ny.---
Then	we	could	all___	be
shar -	ing	our	u -	ni -
				ty.---

I'd Rather Be Your Friend

(14) *f*



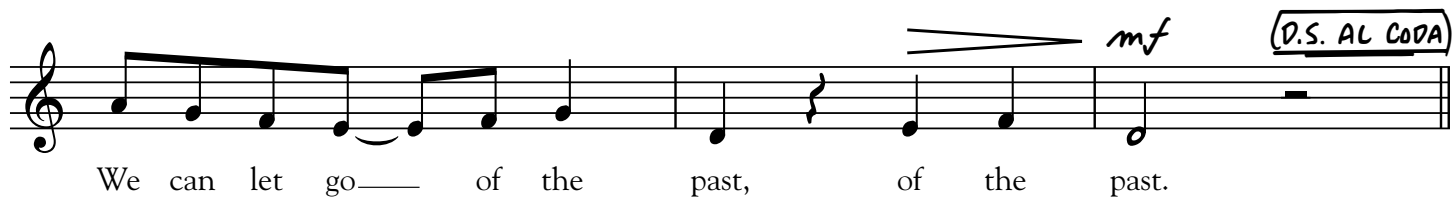
Free from war, — and free from hate. This is our chance, — at

(18)



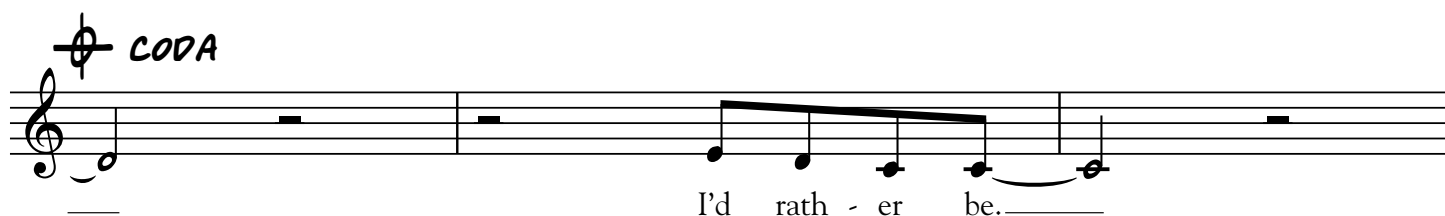
last! We don't have to be — what we don't want to be. —

mf (D.S. AL CODA)



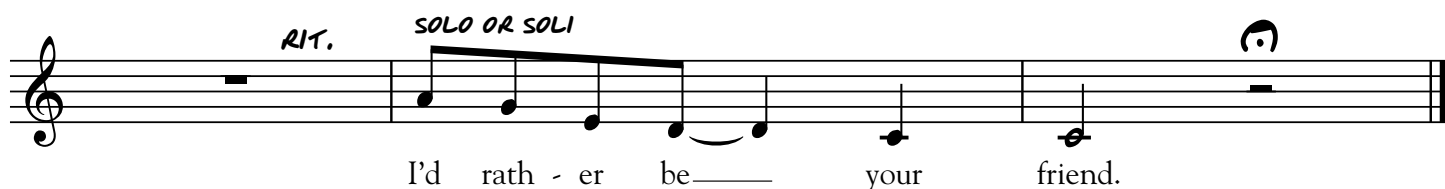
We can let go — of the past, of the past.

CODA



— I'd rath - er be. —

RIT. **SOLO OR SOLI**



I'd rath - er be — your friend.

Cat 4: Do you really think we could get along?

Dog 4: I don't know. It's never been done.

Cat 5: Well, if Kitten and Puppy can do it, maybe we can, too.

Dog 5: I guess it's worth a try.

Cat 6: It's certainly better than fighting all the time.

Dog 6: Really there's no reason we can't get along.

Cat 7: Sure, we're different. But so what?

Dog 7: We could welcome our diversity. Maybe even... embrace it.

All cats and dogs: *(in awe of the concept)* Woooooah.

Cat 8: That sounds purrrrfectly wonderful!

Dog 8: We could share common goals!

Cat 9: We could work together to solve common problems!

Dog 9: Hey! This is gonna be great!

All cats and dogs: Yeah!

Cat 10: And I know just how we can get started!

Cat 10 goes to the tree and starts to remove the vertical stripe (which is, of course, removable).

Dog 10: Good idea!

He helps her remove the stripe. Meanwhile, Dog 1 has taken it upon himself to paint a new sign. (Have a large, pre-painted sign at the ready.) He hands it to Cat 1.

Dog 1: Here.

Cat 1: *(smiling and nodding)* This will help, too!

Cat 1 turns the sign around for the audience and all cats and dogs to see. It says "The Unity Tree."

All cats and dogs: Ahhhhh! *(they applaud)*

A couple of cats and dogs hang the sign on the trunk of the tree together. The other signs are ceremoniously removed by other dogs and cats and disposed of in a garbage can.

Dog 2: From now on, things will be different.

Cat 2: Instead of separating us, the tree will remind us.

Dog 3: No more fighting like cats and dogs!

Cat 3: No more hissing.

Dog 4: No more growling.

Cat 4: We'll live together in unity!

Dog 5: In harmony!

Cat 5: In peace.

Dog 6: United, we'll be stronger.

Cat 6: United, we'll grow!

Dog 7: United, we'll stand!

All cats and dogs shake hands (paws). They bark and meow happily.

Cat 7: Puppy and Kitten, thank you for showing us the way!

Puppy and Kitten: You're welcome!

Dog 8: Hey! In honor of our new unity, why don't we decorate our Unity Tree?

All: Yeeeeaaaah!!!

All cats and dogs grab containers of decorations that just happen to be nearby. They decorate the tree by hanging things on it while they are singing the Finale.

FINALE: United We Stand

BOW MUSIC: Reprise: United We Stand

The End

United We Stand

ENTHUSIASTIC LIGHT ROCK (♩=138)

Teresa Jennings

DRUMS SET-UP

4 5 3 f U

9 REPEAT ON D.S. ALSO

nit - ed we stand to - geth - er in our
live with this plan, to go for - ward hand in

land. hand U - nit - ed we live in har - mo -
to cre - ate our own land of u - ni

1. 2.

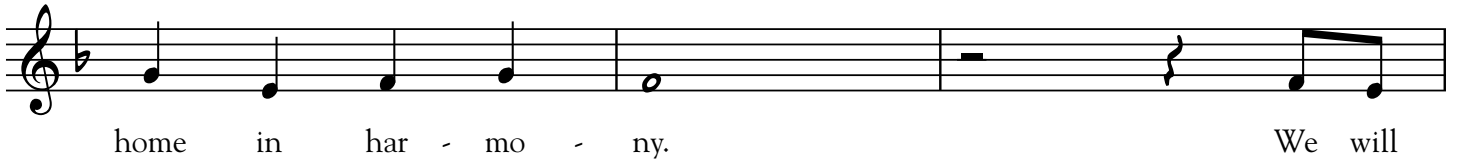
ny, har - mo - ny. We ty, u - ni

19

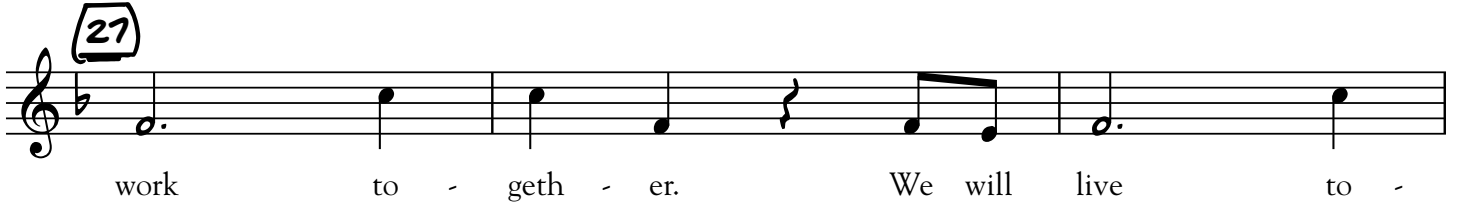
ty. We will take it and make it to

geth - er. We will build up our

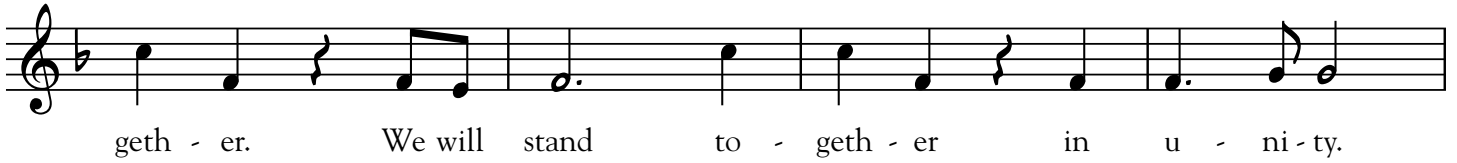
United We Stand



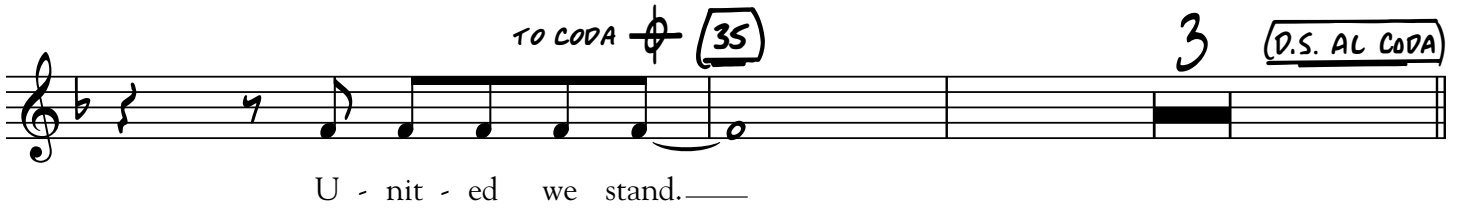
home in har - mo - ny. We will



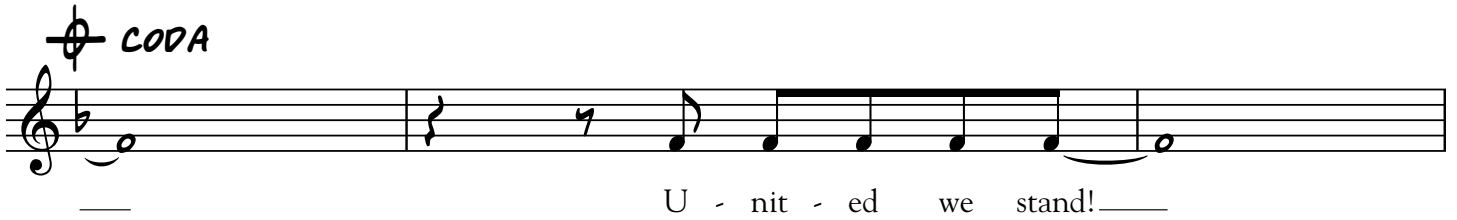
27 work to - geth - er. We will live to -



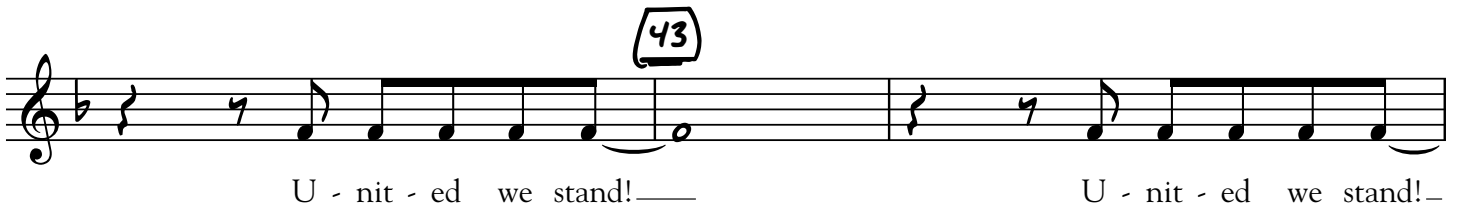
geth - er. We will stand to - geth - er in u - ni - ty.



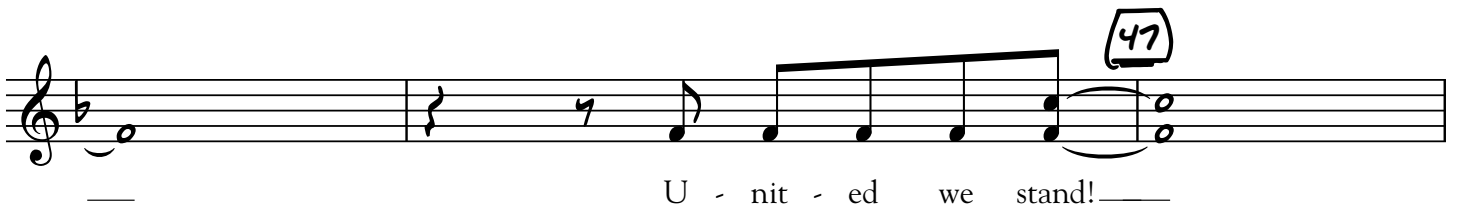
TO CODA **35** 3 **D.S. AL CODA**
U - nit - ed we stand.——



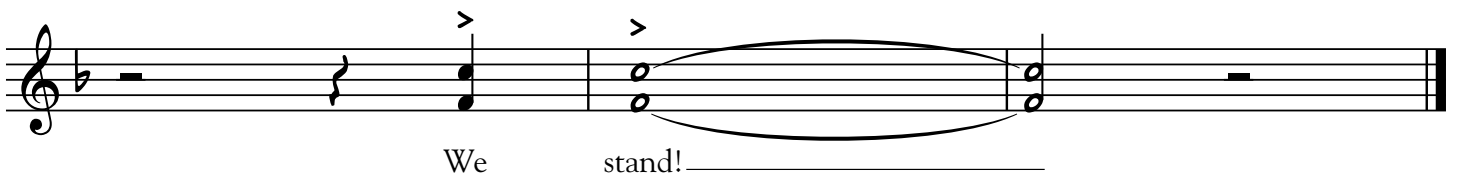
CODA
U - nit - ed we stand!——



43
U - nit - ed we stand!—— U - nit - ed we stand!——



47
U - nit - ed we stand!——



We stand!——

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